

threatening to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is possible that the peace-loving Taiwanese people may seek their own legislation against China's annexation attempt. This will, in turn, inflame Chinese leaders and provoke them to enact even harsher legislation against Taiwan. Consequently tensions will rise and war in the Taiwan Strait will become a possibility.

It is still not too late for the Chinese authorities not to enact the anti-secession law against Taiwan. Taiwanese people and their leaders are all peace-loving people who do not seek to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Why must China take upon itself to unilaterally change the status quo?

Friends of Taiwan in the United States must make clear to China that the United States will not stand idly by if China uses force against Taiwan. Taiwan Relations Act assures Taiwan of our concern over any military action against Taiwan. The United States will not allow China to impose its own style of government on the unwilling Taiwan. Taiwanese people must be given their own voice of self-determination regarding their future, and their liberty mustn't be taken away from them by any adversary.

IN MEMORY OF MUFF SINGER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Muff Singer, my former administrative assistant and dear friend. After a long and bitter fight with ovarian cancer Muff died on January 16, 2005.

Muff was born in Chicago, February 14, 1942, and early in life she became involved with the struggle for progressive social change through the political process. While at the University of Texas in the early 1960s she participated in civil rights picket lines, protesting the racial segregation of the University dormitories and Austin movie theaters. Muff led the way for the racial integration of one of the University's honor societies. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1964 and then attended New York University for a year of graduate work in history. She joined the Peace Corps in 1965 and taught language for two years at the Iwahig Penal Colony on the Island of Palawan, Philippines. She returned to California to work in the presidential campaign of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 during which time she met her future husband Rick Tuttle.

I was introduced to Muff through Rick Tuttle, my good friend from UCLA. Muff became my campaign coordinator for my first race for the California State Assembly, performing Herculean tasks 18 hours a day, seven days a week, for more than seven months. In an unbelievably chaotic, extremely competitive and often nasty political campaign, she conducted herself with strength, determination, grace and aplomb.

For ten years, she was my Administrative Assistant, running my district office while I served in the State Assembly. I could have done no better. She led, inspired and motivated a remarkable staff and dealt with a plethora of constituent demands—always with dedication, good judgement and tenacity. With Muff at the helm, I was able to concentrate on

my legislative and political goals in Sacramento, confident in the knowledge that she was taking care of the home front, representing me with dignity, loyalty, competence and integrity. Many of my constituents lives were better because of her efforts.

A study in contrasts, Muff was slight of build and soft of voice but had a ferocity and passion for the righteous way that could bowl over those that stood in her way. Her earnest and serious demeanor belied an incredibly droll wit and joyful bemusement for life's whimsical turns. She was immune to the common political affliction of taking herself too seriously. She saw and participated in the defeat and compromises of political life on a regular basis, yet it never diminished her ardor for justice or her commitment for the less fortunate. She was thrust into the flare of public life, but remained a very private person. In a preening and boastful profession, she always maintained the modesty, humility and empathy that attracted so many of us to her in the first place.

Muff left the Assembly in 1981 to become a full time mother and begin a new career—author of children's books. She had already published her first book, the "Mystery Reader's Quiz Book", co-authored with Robert A. Wager and Aneta Corsault. Muff wrote or co-wrote more than 35 books for toddlers and preschoolers. In addition to picture books, she co-wrote with Nancy Lamb a book for older children, "The World's Greatest Toe Show," which received great reviews. She often said her favorite book was one written with her daughter Sarah called "Look Around with Little Fish."

Muff is survived by her husband, former Los Angeles City Controller Rick Tuttle, her daughter Sarah, her parents Bernard and Goldryn Singer, sister Caren and a niece and nephew.

Mr. Speaker, I asked my colleagues to join me to honoring the legacy of Muff Singer who lived an incredible, fulfilling and inspirational life.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the past and present achievements of African Americans as we celebrate African American History Month.

African Americans in arts, business, education, literature, music, politics, science and sports have helped shape the nation. Overcoming enormous obstacles and racial barriers, the African American community has made enormous contributions to our everyday world. Let us remember not only outstanding heroes such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass, and former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, but also the extraordinary lives of ordinary people who have helped build our great nation.

This year, I want to acknowledge and thank the thousands of the African Americans serving in the Armed Services. African Americans have fought with distinction in every war since the Revolutionary War. We honor this proud history and all African Americans who risk

their lives defending freedom and democracy. We are grateful for their service.

During this month and throughout the year, I encourage those living in California's 32nd Congressional District and around the country to take the time to learn about the vast accomplishments of African Americans and honor African American history.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of the Real ID Act. I would like to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER for his leadership and determination to make America safer through reforms proposed in this legislation.

As the former chief of counter-terrorism in the U.S. Department of Justice for the Western District of Texas, I had jurisdiction over the Texas-Mexican border. I dealt firsthand, with the day-to-day threats our nation faced, and asked the question, "Why aren't we doing more to secure our borders?"

The House took an initial step toward answering this question when it passed the historic 9-11 legislation last December. Unfortunately, some key border security and immigration reform provisions were not included in that measure. Today we must change that and give our nation more security.

And today we truly have the opportunity to better our border security and political asylum laws.

In 1993 Ramzi Yousef, soon to become the world's most wanted terrorist, arrived at Kennedy airport carrying a fraudulent Iraqi passport and told the INS he was fleeing the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein. He asked for political asylum and was given a summons to appear at a hearing. But instead, this expert bomb maker ignored that order and joined his fellow classmates from the Bin Laden academy to form the first Al Qaeda cell in the United States. On February 26, 1993 Ramzi Yousef and his fellow terrorists detonated a bomb in the World Trade Center. Remarkably, the towers remained standing. They were supposed to fall that day, one toppling over the other killing everyone inside. That day would come later.

Many of those of intent on doing our nation harm claim political asylum as their Trojan horse to gain access to our borders. Yet a majority of those given notices fail to show up at those hearings. We cannot afford or allow another Ramzi Yousef to cross our border. Our laws should not protect terrorists like Ramzi Yousef who hide behind the privileges and rights of political asylum.

This bill will make it easier to deport suspected terrorists.